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BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

July 15, 1999

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Sentencing of John Huang and Charlie Trie

Dear General Reno:

As you can see from the attached correspondence, I have requested that Judge Howard, the sentencing judge for Charlie Trie, delay the sentencing of Mr. Trie. I have drafted a similar letter to Judge Paez, the sentencing judge for John Huang. I have requested this delay so that the Committee can have an opportunity to question Trie and Huang before they are sentenced. As I have explained to your staff, I am concerned that Trie and Huang will have no incentive to cooperate with the Committee after they are sentenced. However, under your current plan, Trie and Huang will be sentenced within the next month.

I hope that your staff will not oppose my request, and will instead support the Committee's efforts to obtain truthful and complete testimony from Trie and Huang as soon as possible. In conjunction with my request to the two judges, I request that you take all action necessary to have Trie and Huang cooperate with the Committee, consistent with their responsibilities under the plea agreements that they have signed.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member
David Vicinanza, Esq.

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INDEPENDENT

July 15, 1999

The Honorable George Howard, Jr.
United States District Judge
United States District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas
600 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Sentencing of Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie

Dear Judge Howard:

I write to respectfully request that you delay the sentencing of Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie, which is reportedly scheduled to take place next month. As explained below, Mr. Trie is a central witness in this Committee's campaign fundraising investigation, and the Committee needs to question Mr. Trie prior to his sentencing. If you delay Mr. Trie's sentencing until the Committee has had the opportunity to question him, it would substantially increase the likelihood of Mr. Trie's truthful cooperation with the Committee. Moreover, such a delay would not cause any harm to either Mr. Trie or the investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice.

The Committee on Government Reform has been conducting an investigation of campaign fundraising illegalities in the 1992 and 1996 federal elections for more than two and a half years. As part of its work, the Committee has conducted an extensive investigation of allegations relating to Charlie Trie. Charlie Trie is a central figure who was involved in numerous criminal transactions in the course of the campaign finance scandal. When subpoenaed by the Committee, Mr. Trie invoked his Fifth Amendment rights.

Last month, prior to a verdict in his trial before you, Mr. Trie reached a plea agreement with the Justice Department. As you know, this plea agreement requires Mr. Trie to "fully cooperate with the United States" in a number of ways, including "be[ing] available for interview upon reasonable request." In the view of the Committee, Mr. Trie's plea agreement requires him to cooperate with the Committee's campaign fundraising investigation. Nevertheless, Mr. Trie continues to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights, and requests a formal grant of immunity from the Committee prior to testifying. The Justice Department has informed the Committee that it will oppose a

grant of immunity by the Committee until Mr. Trie has testified in any cases that are brought as a result of his cooperation. However, for reasons that are not entirely clear, the Justice Department appears to be insisting on proceeding with Mr. Trie's sentencing before he has testified at any upcoming trials, and before he has cooperated with the Committee.

I object to the Justice Department's plan to sentence Mr. Trie at this time, and request that you delay Mr. Trie's sentencing until the Committee has had the opportunity to question Mr. Trie. There are two critical facts which form the basis of my request. First, Mr. Trie has never cooperated with the Committee, and appears to be determined to continue stonewalling the Committee. Second, if Mr. Trie were sentenced prior to his appearance before the Committee, he would lose all incentive to cooperate with its investigation.

The public record clearly establishes the fact that Charlie Trie has repeatedly attempted to thwart the ability of Congress to obtain critical information from him regarding his role in the 1996 campaign fundraising scandal. Shortly after the Committee's investigation began, before he could even be served with a subpoena, Mr. Trie fled the country. Then, while hiding in China, Mr. Trie appeared on television to taunt Congress, claiming "they'll never find me." Additionally, while he was in China, Mr. Trie directed his subordinate, Maria Mapili, to destroy documents responsive to a Senate subpoena regarding his fundraising. These facts were outlined by Ms. Mapili in your courtroom during Mr. Trie's trial. Eventually, Mr. Trie did return to the United States to face charges, but his stonewalling has continued. After being served with a Committee subpoena, Mr. Trie invoked his Fifth Amendment rights. Even now that Mr. Trie has pled guilty, and is reportedly cooperating with the Justice Department, he continues to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights in response to the Committee. Mr. Trie's continued invocation of his Fifth Amendment rights is particularly frustrating, given that he no longer faces any reasonable fear of prosecution from the Justice Department.

Mr. Trie's conduct over the past two years makes it clear that he does not want to cooperate with Congressional investigations, and is willing to do anything to thwart Congress. In fact, the Committee understands that in the course of his plea negotiations, Mr. Trie requested that it be made a condition of his plea that he not have to cooperate with Congress. Obviously, the Department could not make such an agreement limiting the powers of Congress. But the fact that Mr. Trie appears to fear testifying before Congress raises doubts about his current cooperation with the Justice Department, and points out the need for action by this Court.

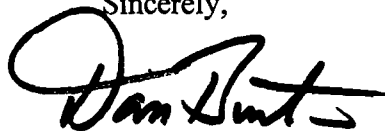
Even the Justice Department does not question the Committee's right or need to question Mr. Trie. Rather, they have tried to force the Committee to wait to question Trie until after he has testified at upcoming trials, and after he has been sentenced. However, it is essential that the Committee's questioning of Mr. Trie take place prior to his sentencing. After Mr. Trie is sentenced, he will no longer have any incentive to cooperate with the Committee. If Mr. Trie testifies before the Committee prior to sentencing, his cooperation, or failure to cooperate with the Committee can be considered

by this Court in deciding whether to accept the Justice Department's lenient recommendations for sentencing.

There can be no doubt that if the Court considers my request, and delays the Trie sentencing, the Committee will have a better opportunity to conduct a fruitful questioning of Mr. Trie. The Committee's investigation of Mr. Trie has been extensive, and has frequently outpaced the Justice Department's own investigation. The Committee possesses a large amount of information that the Justice Department may not have obtained in the course of its own investigation. The Committee is continuing an active investigation of Mr. Trie, and continues to turn up new leads. The Committee should have an opportunity to explore these matters with Mr. Trie prior to sentencing, when it is most likely that Mr. Trie will cooperate.

I will be writing to the Justice Department to seek their assistance in getting Mr. Trie to cooperate with the Committee as soon as possible. But, in the interim, Mr. Trie should not be sentenced until he has fully cooperated with this Committee, and any other federal or state governmental body, as required by his plea agreement. A delay in Mr. Trie's sentencing would serve the important goal of guaranteeing that he has cooperated with the United States Congress' efforts to uncover all relevant information about illegal fundraising in the 1992 and 1996 federal elections. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me, or my Chief Counsel, Barbara J. Comstock, at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Burton". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Burton
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member
David Vicinanza, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Campaign Financing Task Force
Reid Weingarten, Esq., Counsel for Yah Lin Trie

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BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

July 15, 1999

The Honorable Richard A. Paez
United States District Judge
Central District of California
Roybal Federal Building
255 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Sentencing of John Huang

Dear Judge Paez:

I write to respectfully request that you delay the sentencing of John Huang, which is reportedly scheduled to take place on August 2. As explained below, Mr. Huang is a central witness in this Committee's campaign fundraising investigation, and the Committee needs to question Mr. Huang prior to his sentencing. If you delay Mr. Huang's sentencing until the Committee has had the opportunity to question him, it would substantially increase the likelihood of Mr. Huang's truthful cooperation with the Committee. Moreover, such a delay would not cause any harm to either Mr. Huang or the investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice.

The Committee on Government Reform has been conducting an investigation of campaign fundraising illegalities in the 1992 and 1996 federal elections for more than two and a half years. As part of its work, the Committee has conducted an extensive investigation of allegations relating to John Huang. When subpoenaed by the Committee, Mr. Huang invoked his Fifth Amendment rights.

On May 21, 1999, Mr. Huang reached a plea agreement with the Justice Department. This plea agreement requires Mr. Huang to "cooperate fully . . . with the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and, as directed by the United States, with any other federal, state or local government agency" in a number of ways, including "attend[ing] all meetings, interviews, grand jury sessions, trials, and any other proceedings at which your presence is requested." In the view of the Committee, Mr. Huang's plea agreement requires him to cooperate with the Committee's campaign fundraising investigation. Nevertheless, Mr. Huang continues to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights, and requests a formal grant of immunity from the Committee prior to

testifying. The Justice Department has informed the Committee that it will oppose a grant of immunity by the Committee until Mr. Huang has testified in any cases that are brought as a result of his cooperation. However, for reasons that are not entirely clear, the Justice Department appears to be insisting on proceeding with Mr. Huang's sentencing before he has testified at any upcoming trials, and before he has cooperated with the Committee.

I object to the Justice Department's plan to sentence Mr. Huang at this time, and I request that you delay Mr. Huang's sentencing until the Committee has had the opportunity to question him. There are two critical facts which form the basis of my request. First, Mr. Huang has never cooperated with the Committee, and appears to be determined to continue stonewalling the Committee. Second, if Mr. Huang were sentenced prior to his appearance before the Committee, he would lose all incentive to cooperate with its investigation.

First, it is important that the Court understand Mr. Huang's central role in the Committee's campaign fundraising investigation. During the early 1990's, Mr. Huang worked for Lippo Bank, which is part of the conglomerate suspected of funneling millions of illegal dollars into U.S. elections. From 1994 until 1995, Mr. Huang was a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Commerce Department, where he was privy to sensitive trade and security information, and where he was in frequent contact with his old colleagues at the Lippo Group. From late 1995 until late 1996, Mr. Huang served with the President's personal approval as the Vice-Chair for Finance of the Democratic National Committee. In this position, he organized a number of fundraising events that raised millions of dollars for the DNC. Through its investigation, the Committee has learned that Huang played a key role in raising substantial sums of illegal contributions for the DNC.

However, Mr. Huang has never cooperated with the Committee's investigation. Mr. Huang began his history of noncooperation in October 1996, after the first news stories arose regarding his illegal campaign fundraising. Mr. Huang first tried to hide from the news media and investigators until after the November election before he was ordered to appear for a civil deposition by a federal judge. Then, he invoked his Fifth Amendment rights rather than cooperate with the Committee. Even now that Mr. Huang has reached a plea agreement with the Justice Department, he continues to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights. Mr. Huang continues to do so, even though he has no reasonable fear of prosecution. Mr. Huang's continued refusal to testify should highlight the fact that the Committee should be able to interview him prior to sentencing, as part of his plea agreement.

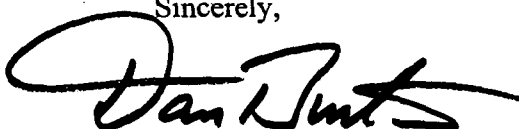
Even the Justice Department does not question the Committee's right or need to question Mr. Huang. Rather, they have tried to force the Committee to wait to question Huang until after he has testified at upcoming trials, and after he has been sentenced. However, it is essential that the Committee's questioning of Mr. Huang take place prior to his sentencing. After Mr. Huang is sentenced, he will no longer have any incentive to cooperate with the Committee. If Mr. Huang testifies before the Committee prior to

sentencing, his cooperation, or failure to cooperate with the Committee can be considered by this Court in deciding whether to accept the Justice Department's lenient recommendations for sentencing.

There can be no doubt that if the Court considers my request, and delays the Huang sentencing, the Committee will have a better opportunity to conduct a fruitful questioning of Mr. Huang. The Committee's investigation of Mr. Huang has been extensive, and has frequently outpaced the Justice Department's own investigation. The Committee possesses a large amount of information that the Justice Department may not have obtained in the course of its own investigation. The Committee is continuing an active investigation of Mr. Huang, and continues to turn up new leads. The Committee should have an opportunity to explore these matters with Mr. Huang prior to sentencing, when it is most likely that Mr. Huang will cooperate.

I will be writing to the Justice Department to seek their assistance in getting Mr. Huang to cooperate with the Committee as soon as possible. But, in the interim, Mr. Huang should not be sentenced until he has fully cooperated with this Committee, and any other federal or state governmental body, as required by his plea agreement. A delay in Mr. Huang's sentencing would serve the important goal of guaranteeing that he has cooperated with the United States Congress' efforts to uncover all relevant information about illegal fundraising in the 1992 and 1996 federal elections. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me, or my Chief Counsel, Barbara J. Comstock, at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,

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Dan Burton
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member
David Vicinanza, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Campaign Financing Task Force
Ty Cobb, Esq., Counsel for John Huang